

FY 2010 Appropriations Comes to a Close: President Obama signed the fiscal 2010 Defense spending bill ([HR 3326](#)) on December 19th, shortly after the Senate cleared it for him. That brought fiscal 2010 appropriations to a close and eliminated the need for another continuing resolution (CR).

The Health Care Debate Continues: At this point, the Senate is not likely to vote on passage of its health care overhaul ([HR 3590](#)) until late on December 24th. To this end, House and Senate negotiators, along with influential lobby groups, are preparing for conference negotiations that could rewrite substantial parts of the health care legislation produced by each chamber.

As the Senate grinds toward passage of its version of the legislation, lawmakers are warily eyeing a few key differences — such as the revenue-raising provisions of each bill — that are likely to be the most difficult to resolve when the talks begin.

(Source: Congressional Quarterly)